MANY CLUBS NOW SUPPORT WORK

FOR THE BLIND

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The Lion October 1927 c.1

Many Clubs Now Support Work for the Blind

Pennsylvania and Ohio lead all other districts of Lions International in the number of clubs reporting work for the blind during August with six clubs in each district reporting such activities. These two districts are closely followed by New Jersey and New York which in each case report five clubs participating in this major activity of Lions International. That the activity is interesting clubs in every section of the country is indicated by reports coming from widely separated clubs in Oklahoma, British Columbia, Ontario, Tennessee, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming. The American Foundation for the Blind has secured the cooperation of Greenwich, Conn., Lions in the publication of a book in Braille. The book selected is "Stories That I Like Best," as chosen by Peter B. Kyne, Irvin S. Cobb and other prominent authors. This activity will cost the Greenwich Lions some $300 which they consider cheap since the Braillling of such a book requires twelve large volumes and it will be necessary to supply these to the leading libraries throughout the nation. Hollywood Lions are assisting the "American Brotherhood of Free Reading for the Blind," a Hollywood institution by supplying funds to cover the cost of Brailling a number of books. This organization has already distributed 4,000 copies of various popular works and the Hollywood Lions are glad to have a part in the effort.

Miss Helen Keller, herself blind, and who has done so much for the work for the blind has written a personal letter to the Lions of Montclair, N. J., commending them for having made possible the Brailling of a novel, "The Hunter's Trail." The Cincinnati club is continuing its interest in the Lions Juvenile Braille Magazine through a committee which chooses material and edits this publication which is supported by the Lions Clubs throughout the organization.

The interest of Shreveport, La., Lions has been aroused through a program which the club held in behalf of the blind with a blind musician furnishing the entertainment. Speakers reviewed the accomplishments of the "Week for the Blind" conducted by the club during the spring of 1927, and plans were perfected for the building of a school for the blind in Caddo parish. The Lions of Flint, Mich., are providing a scholarship for the training of a teacher in eyesight conversation who will conduct classes for visually handicapped children in the Flint schools.

Many other clubs have been fully as active in providing entertainment for the blind during the hot summer months. In Utica, N. Y., Barberton, Ohio, New Westminster, British Columbia and Buffalo, N. Y., the clubs have provided entertainment and conveyances for outings to which the blind people of these various cities were honor guests. The Lions of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, are helping to support the only destitute blind person in the city. In addition they are assigning certain members of the club each week to drive the blind people of the city to Akron to a musical concert or some other such entertainment.

The New Jersey clubs under the direction of the state organization are combining their efforts in the support of the Arthur Home for Blind Babies. The Westfield Lions assessed each of their members to the amount of $5.00 to help in this work. The Lions of the Oranges brought the matter to the attention of the local press, and in addition to the news stories, a powerful editorial was written favoring the drive which is being made for a $12,000 fund to assist the institution. In addition to supporting this same work the Lions of Elizabeth, N. J., have arranged to publish a book in Braille, while the club at Long Branch entertained thirty of the blind children from the Arthur Home in an initial effort to interest the Lions and citizens of that city in support of the project.

In pursuance to the direction of the International Association of Lions Clubs in convention assembled at Miami, Florida, on June 16, 1927, *I, Irving L. Camp, President of Lions International, do hereby proclaim the week of October* 16-22 *to be Lions International Week for the Blind. I earnestly request every club in the Association and each individual member to lend their hearty cooperation to the program for International Blind Week and the International radio broadcast, as outlined in the summary of the committee report provided herewith.*

Signed: IRVING L. CAMP,
President.

Attested: MELVIN JONES,
Secretary.

The work of the Norristown, Pa., Lions in the Royer Greaves School for the Blind has brought about a problem in discipline for those who are in charge of the blind children. The Norristown Lions have presented the school with a radio and the school authorities now report that it is difficult to get the children to bed on time. In Casper, Wyo., the Lions are maintaining their interest in a blind girl who was formerly the ward of that club. Her parents have since moved to Amarillo, Texas, and the Casper Lions are making an effort to interest the Lions of that section in the welfare of the child.

The problem of vocational placement which according to many workers for the blind is the most important problem confronting these people has engaged the attention of a number of clubs during the past month. In Porterville, Calif., the Lions were instrumental in persuading a blind bootlegger to forsake his trade on the promise of more adequate support from county funds. A less spectacular but equally as effective work was accomplished in Windsor, Ontario, where the Lions built and equipped a refreshment booth to be operated by a blind man and sent the blind husband of another family to a neighboring city for treatment. In Oshkosh, Wis., the club has assisted in building up a market for products made by blind workers and is furnishing capital to finance the manufacture and sale of such items. A representative of the Wilkes-Barre, Pa., club was sent to West Virginia to observe the mattress making industry and report whether blind people could engage in this work. His report was favorable and the club has already raised the money to buy the machinery and start a small mattress factory in which only blind workers will be employed. Trustees of the Clovernook Home for the Blind have been invited to the county fair by Eaton, Ohio, Lions who have arranged for the sale of blind-made products. A number of blind girls from the Clovernook Home will demonstrate the various manufacturing operations in which they are engaged. A young blind man who approached the Lions of Elmira, N. Y., asking "not for charity but a chance" found a ready response. The club has started the young man in business with a stand at which he will sell papers, candies and notions. At his request he will be allowed to repay the club from his earnings. Members of the Buffalo, N. Y., club are actively supporting the local factory of the Association for the Blind. Among the clubs which have reported taking part in financial drives for the support of various phases of blind work are Perry, Okla.; Wilkinsburg, Wilkes-Barre, Bethlehem and Butler, Pa.; Flushing, N. Y.; Clarksburg, W. Va., and Shelbyville, Tenn.; Erie, Pa., Ravenna, Ohio, Riverton and Torrington, Wyo., clubs are making a survey of their respective communities to determine the number of blind people in these communities and to arrange a comprehensive program to cover their needs. Piqua, Ohio, Lions report that a clinic is being held for the blind.

The widespread appeal which work for the blind has among the Lions clubs is indicated by the many reports which have come in. These reports show that the activity is in reality a major activity among the clubs of Lions International and the number of such reports will probably continue to increase.

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